

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A cooking vessel (1) for cooking food under pressure, said vessel comprising:

a cooking bowl (2) and a lid (3), said bowl (2) being provided with engagement means (12) suitable for co-operating with locking means (5) that extend substantially radially over the lid (3) and that are ~~suitable~~ configured for being moved ~~for locking/unlocking to lock and unlock~~ the lid (3) on the bowl (2); and

support means (11) disposed between the lid (3) and the locking means (5) so that, at a time when the lid (3) is locked on the bowl, the locking means (5) come to bear against the support means (11);

~~said cooking vessel being characterized in that:~~

~~firstly,~~ the lid (3) and the bowl (2) ~~are being~~ shaped so that, at a time when the lid is placed onto the bowl (2), the lid (3) penetrates significantly into the bowl (2) ~~so as to~~ form an “internal-mount” lid, until the locking means (5) come to bear against the engagement means (12) which ~~thus~~ form abutment means for the lid (3); and

~~secondly,~~ the support means (11) ~~subdivide~~ subdividing the lid (3) into one or more fixed angular sectors (3F) that are held by the locking means (5), and one or more free angular sectors (3L) that are not held by the locking means (5), said support means (11) and the lid (3) being dimensioned ~~in a manner such as to~~ enable the free sector(s) (3L) of the lid (3) to be deformed in controlled manner under the effect of the pressure prevailing in the bowl (2).

2. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to~~ claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the bowl-covering portion ~~(8)~~ of the lid (3) defines an outer edge ~~(9)~~, and the bowl (2) is provided with a rim (4) that has a top limit (4S), the support means ~~(11)~~ being dimensioned so that, at a time when the lid (3) is locked on the bowl ~~(2)~~ and when the vessel is not under pressure, they generate a first predetermined amount of vertical clearance ~~(D1)~~ between said top limit ~~(4S)~~ and that portion of the outer edge ~~(9)~~ which defines the free sector(s) ~~(3L)~~, and, at a time when said lid is locked on the bowl and when the vessel is under pressure, they generate a second amount of vertical clearance ~~(D2)~~ between said top limit and said portion of the outer edge ~~(9)~~, the difference between the first amount of clearance ~~(D1)~~ and the second amount of clearance ~~(D2)~~ resulting from the free sector(s) ~~(3L)~~ deforming under the effect of the pressure prevailing in the bowl.

3. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to~~ claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the support means ~~(11)~~ and the lid (3) are dimensioned so that, at a time when the vessel (1) is subjected to a rated pressure, the second amount of clearance ~~(D2)~~ is substantially zero in those zones of the free sector(s) ~~(3L)~~ which undergo the largest amount of deformation, the outer edge (9) then coming substantially flush with the top limit ~~(4S)~~ of the rim (4) of the bowl ~~(2)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of claim 1 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the support means ~~(11)~~ are formed by bearing ramps ~~(15)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 4, wherein characterized in that~~
the bearing ramps ~~(15)~~ are formed by projections ~~(16)~~ provided on the lid ~~(3)~~, substantially
vertically in register with the locking means ~~(5)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 4, wherein characterized in that~~
the bearing ramps ~~(15)~~ are formed by separated parts, ~~e.g. parts that are welded or otherwise bonded~~
~~to the lid (3)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of claim 1 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the locking means ~~(5)~~ are formed by two jaws ~~(6, 7)~~ that are
substantially symmetrical to each other about the center of the lid, said jaws ~~(6, 7)~~ extending
substantially radially.

8. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 2 or claim 7, wherein~~
~~characterized in that~~ the engagement means ~~(12)~~ are formed by the portion(s) of the rim ~~(4)~~ of the
bowl ~~(2)~~ that is/are situated substantially vertically in register with the jaws ~~(6, 7)~~, the jaws coming
to bear against the rim ~~(4)~~ in order to lock the lid ~~(3)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of claim 4 ~~according to any one of claims 4 to 6 and to~~
~~claim 8, wherein characterized in that~~ the support means ~~(11)~~ are formed by two pairs of bearing
ramps ~~(15)~~, each pair of bearing ramps ~~(15)~~ being situated under a corresponding jaw ~~(6, 7)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 9, wherein characterized in that~~
the two pairs of bearing ramps (15) are positioned on the same geometrical circle (C).

11. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of claim 1 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 6,~~
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the locking means (5) are formed by a locking bar that is suitable for
co-operating with corresponding lugs mounted on the bowl (2), said lugs forming engagement
means (12) for engaging the locking means (5).

12. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 2 and to any one of claims 3 to~~
~~11, wherein characterized in that~~ the bowl-covering portion (8) of the lid (3) is extended by a side
wall (10) that extends downwards so as to fit the shape of the inside wall (21) of the bowl with a
small amount of radial clearance (R).

13. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 12, wherein characterized in that~~
the bottom end of the side wall (10) of the lid (3) has a fold (30) arranged to receive a sealing gasket
(40).

14. (Currently Amended) The A-vessel of ~~according to claim 2, wherein characterized in that~~
the rim (4) of the bowl (2) has an annular top margin (T) presenting substantially the same external
curvature as the lid (3).

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The vessel of claim 7, wherein the engagement means are formed by the portion(s) of the rim of the bowl that is/are situated substantially vertically in register with the jaws, the jaws coming to bear against the rim in order to lock the lid.